

Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PA-02 INR-07 SSO-00 INRE-00 PRS-01

OPR-02 SCA-01 L-03 SP-02 EAE-00 /029 W

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O R 311118Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO USINFO WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE

SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 4939

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

DEPT OF DEFENSE WASHDC

UNCLAS VIENTIANE 5071

USIA FOR IPS, IBS, CENTRAL NEWS DESK AND LAO SERVICE,
IEA/L, IOP/G, STATE FOR EA/P, EA/LC, S/PRS, BANGKOK FOR
VOA AND PAO

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MOPS, PINT, LA

SUBJ: USINFO

1. THE FOLLOWING ITEM MIGHT PROVIDE SOME ILLUMINATION ON
THE EMBASSY'S PROBLEMS DEALING WITH THE GOVERNMENT HERE. THE
STORY HAS ALREADY BEEN GIVEN TO WIRE SERVICES.

2. THE EMBASSY HAS FULL AUTHORIZATION FROM THE LAO GOVERN-
MENT TO SHIP OUT 66 CARS BELONGING TO AMERICAN OFFICIALS
FORMERLY HERE UNDER USAID, THE EMBASSY, USIS, AND THE
DEFENSE ATTACHE OFFICE. BUT THE CARS ARE LOCKED UP
INSIDE THE KM-6 OR SILVER CITY HOUSING COMPOUNDS, AND
THE EMBASSY HAS BEEN DENIED ACCESS. IN FACT, MANY CARS
BELONGING TO AMERICAN OFFICIALS ARE NOW SEEN IN VIENTIANE BEING
DRIVEN BY OBVIOUSLY UNAUTHORIZED PEOPLE.

3. IN TOTAL, ABOUT 125 CARS BELONGING TO NOW DEPARTED AMERICAN
OFFICIALS ARE ON RECORD AT THE EMBASSY HERE. BESIDES THE 66 WHICH
HAVE FULL SHIPPING CLEARANCE, ANOTHER 44 WERE ALMOST
FULLY CLEARED BY THE MIXED POLICE, THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS,
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AND CUSTOMS. YESTERDAY (JULY 30), HOWEVER, THE MIXED POLICE

RETURNED PAPERS ON THESE 44 CARS, WITHOUT POLICE CLEARANCE.
NEITHER THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS NOR THE MIXED POLICE
HAS OFFERED AN EXPLANATION.

4. BESIDES THE CARS, OTHER PERSONAL POSSESSIONS OF
AMERICAN OFFICIALS ARE STILL IN HOUSES IN THE KM-6 AND SILVER
CITY HOUSING UNITS, AND THE EMBASSY HAS BEEN UNABLE TO GET ANY
INDICATION FROM THE GOVERNMENT THAT THE EFFECTS WILL
EVER BE RETURNED TO THEIR OWNERS. IN FACT, MANY OF THE HOUSES AT
KM-6 AND SILVER CITY ARE NOW OCCUPIED BY LAO.

5. FYI: WE LEARNED TODAY FROM DENIS GRAY, AP CORRESPONDENT
IN BANGKOK, THAT BOTH HE AND DAVID ANDELMAN OF THE NEW YORK
TIMES HAVE BEEN DENIED LAO VISAS BY THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
HERE. GRAY SAID NO EXPLANATION WAS GIVEN.
CONVERSE

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